

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 167244

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, PFOR, TU, US, GR

SUBJECT: US-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA);
THE AEGEAN

1. TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL CALLED ON ASST SECY HARTMAN
JULY 6 ON INSTRUCTIONS TO ASK WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS
DOING TO MOVE THE DCA THROUGH CONGRESS AND HOW WE ASSESS
THE PROSPECTS FOR EARLY ACTION. ACCORDING TO ESENBEL, THE
TURKISH EMBASSY IN ATHENS IS REPORTING THAT THE GREEKS ARE
FOOT-DRAGGING IN THE US-GREEK NEGOTIATIONS. THE GOT,
RECALLING EARLIER INDICATIONS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD
EXPECTED CONGRESS TO ACT ON BOTH DCA'S SIMULTANEOUSLY,
NOW FEARS THERE IS SOME DANGER OF OUR FALLING INTO A
"GREEK TRAP". ESENBEL SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL,
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UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ADMINISTRATION NEEDS TIME TO GET

THE TURKISH DCA THROUGH CONGRESS, HAS PREFERRED TO HANDLE THE MATTER QUIETLY WITH AS LITTLE PUBLIC COMMENT AS POSSIBLE ON THE DCA AND ITS SCHEDULE FOR PASSAGE IN WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, DEMIREL IS NOW BEING QUESTIONED ABOUT THE ISSUE REPEATEDLY BY THE PRESS AND HAS BEEN FORCED TO MAKE SOME PUBLIC COMMENTS ABOUT PASSAGE OF THE AGREEMENT. THE TURKISH LEADERSHIP HOPES THAT THE DCA WILL BE ENDORSED EXPEDITIOUSLY, ACCORDING TO ESENBEL.

2. HARTMAN EMPHASIZED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS NOW TRYING TO GET THE PROCESS OF CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION LAUNCHED. HE NOTED THAT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAD DISCUSSED WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY HEARINGS. AS A RESULT, SENATOR SPARKMAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, IS DISPATCHING TO TURKEY THIS WEEK TWO COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBERS ON A FACT-FINDING MISSION. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT LATER THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MAY SEND OUT STAFFERS AS WELL. HARTMAN CONTINUED THAT WHILE THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP HAS NOT COMMITTED ITSELF TO ANYTHING DEFINITE, WE HOPE THAT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS CAN BE SCHEDULED IN AT LEAST ONE HOUSE BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONAL POLITICAL CONVENTIONS. HARTMAN SAID IT IS CLEAR THAT WE CANNOT HOPE FOR SERIOUS FINAL CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THE AGREEMENT UNTIL AT LEAST THE TWO CONVENTIONS ARE CONCLUDED, BUT THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR SUCH CONSIDERATION IN SEPTEMBER FOLLOWING THE CONVENTIONS. HARTMAN EMPHASIZED THAT WE DO NOT LINK THE TURKISH AND GREEK DCA'S AND THAT WE ARE IN FACT PROCEEDING WITH CONGRESS ON THE TURKISH DCA WITHOUT A COMPLETED GREEK AGREEMENT. HE NOTED IN PASSING THAT THE CHIEF GREEK NEGOTIATOR IS NOW IN WASHINGTON, AND SAID WE SHOULD SHORTLY HAVE A BETTER APPRECIATION OF HOW THE US-GREEK TALKS ARE GOING. HE SAID THAT THE ISSUES STILL OUTSTANDING IN THE US-GREEK TALKS ARE NOT INSURMOUNTABLE, AND THAT HE BELIEVES WE CAN MOVE ON TOWARD FINAL AGREEMENT.

3. ESENBEL THOUGHT THAT THE VISIT OF THE TWO SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE STAFFERS TO TURKEY IS A CONSTRUCTIVE STEP AND SAID HE WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE GOT THAT IT CONFIDENTIAL

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FACILITATE THE VISIT, INCLUDING ACCESS TO ANY US-TURKISH MILITARY FACILITIES WHICH THE STAFFERS MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN VISITING.

4. HARTMAN CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT IN BOTH ANKARA AND ATHENS WE ARE URGING RESTRAINT IN THE AEGEAN AND SAID HE PARTICULARLY HOPED THAT TURKEY WOULD SHOW SUCH RESTRAINT WHEN ITS SEISMIC SHIP PUTS TO SEA. ESENBEL SAID HE WAS

SURE THE GOT IS AWARE OF THE NEED FOR RESTRAINT BUT THAT
IT DOES FEEL COMPELLED TO PROTECT ITS MANY INTERESTS IN
THE AEGEAN.

ROBINSON

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